Amended Patent Claims

1. (original) A sprayable coating agent in the form of granules containing cellulose and/or regenerated cellulose and/or cellulosic raw materials as well as mixtures thereof with synthetic fibers and/or inorganic fibers and/or in-organic, coarse-grained, fine-grained or pulverulent substances and/or organic polymer materials and/or auxiliaries or additives, whereby the starting materials and/or mixtures thereof are compacted to form a pressed piece, subsequently ground up and optionally sieved, so that the granules have a density of 1 g/cm^3 to 5 g/cm^3, a moisture content of 1% to 20%, a bulk density of 150 g/l to 1500 g/l and so that the ground up and optionally sieved granules have the following particle-size distribution:

0 - 40 % by weight	0 - 600 μm
5 - 55 % by weight	600 - 1250 μm
5 - 95 % by weight	> 1250 μm

or

0 - 15 % by weight	0 - 800 μm
10 - 85 % by weight	800 - 2000 μm
0 15 % by weight	> 2000 μm.

2. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the density of the granules preferably ranges from 1.2 g/cm^3 to 3.1 g/cm^3.

3. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the moisture content of the granules preferably ranges from 2% to 12%.

4. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the bulk density of the granules preferably ranges from 170 g/l to 600 g/I.

5. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the granules have the following particle-size distribution:

0.2 - 5 % by weight	< 100 µm
1 - 15 % by weight	100 - 250 µm
4 - 25 % by weight	250 - 400 µm
8 - 30 % by weight	400 - 600 µm
10 - 35 % by weight	600 - 800 µm
15 - 40 % by weight	800 - 1250 µm
7 - 20 % by weight	> 1250 µm.

6. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the granules have the following particle-size distribution:

5 - 10 % by weight	< 800 µm
10 - 50 % by weight	800 - 1250 µm
25 - 70 % by weight	1250 - 1600 µm
7 - 15 %o by weight	1600 - 2000 µm

3 - 5 % by weight > 2000 μm.

7. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the cellulose is selected from the group consisting of cotton, linters, pulp, paper, flax, hemp, jute, cuprammonium silk, rayon, lyocel and/or colored fibers.

8. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the cellulosic raw material is wood, wood shavings, sawdust, straw and/or cork.

9. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the synthetic fibers are polyester, polyannide, polyacrylonitrile, poly-urethane, polyethylene, polypropylene and/or acetate fibers.

10. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic fibers are silicate, water glass, glass, metal and/or carbon fibers.

11. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the cellulosic proportion in the granules ranges from 40% to 100% by weight, preferably from 60% to 95% by weight.

12. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the proportion of synthetic fibers in the granules ranges from 0% to 60% by weight, preferably from 5% to 30% by weight.

13. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 12~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the proportion of inorganic fibers in the granules ranges from 0% to 60% by weight, preferably from 5% to 30% by weight.

14. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic, coarse-grained, fine-grained or pulverulent substances are marble, quartz sand, silicic acid, chalk, gypsum, carbonates and/or metal oxides.

15. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the proportion of inorganic coarse-grained, fine-grained or pulverulent substances in the granules ranges from 0% to 40% by weight, preferably from 5% to 25% by weight.

16. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 15~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the organic polymer materials are polyethylene, polypropylene, polytetrafluoroethylene,

polystyrene foam, acrylates, rubber and/or other modified and unmodified polysaccharides.

17. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 16~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the proportion of organic polymer materials in the granules ranges from 0% to 40% by weight, preferably from 5% to 25% by weight.

18. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 17~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the granules contain the familiar auxiliaries and additives in amounts ranging from 0% to 40% by weight, preferably from 1% to 25% by weight.

19. (currently amended) The sprayable granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 18~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the auxiliaries and additives are organic or inorganic substances, colorants, binders, curing agents, dispersants, preservatives, fungicides, mica, flame-resistant materials, nanoparticles of any type and/or water.

20. (original) The sprayable granules according to Claim 19, characterized in that the colorant is a white or colored organic or inorganic colorant.

21. (currently amended) A method for the production of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 20~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the fibrous and coarse-grained starting materials are ground up before the granulation by means of a familiar method, whereby the grinding stock exhibits the following particle-size distribution:

5 - 1 % by weight, preferably	7 - 10 % by weight	< 100 µm
30 -60 % by weight, preferably	40 - 55 % by weight	100 - 250 µm
10 -30 % by weight, preferably	15 - 25 % by weight	250 - 400 µm
5 -20 % by weight, preferably	8 - 15 % by weight	400 - 600 µm
0 - 3 % by weight, preferably	1 - 2 % by weight	< 600 µm.

22. (original) The method for the production of the granules according to Claim 21, characterized in that the starting materials or material mixtures are compacted in a generally known manner to form a pressed piece using a contact force ranging from 30 kN to 400 kN, preferably from 50 to 200 kN, subsequently ground up and optionally sieved.

23. (currently amended) The method for the production of the granules according to ~~Claims 21 and 22~~ Claim 21, characterized in that the starting materials or material mixtures are compacted using a commercially available compactor, for instance, a roller compactor or a flat-matrix press.

24. (currently amended) The method for the production of the granules according to ~~Claims 21 and 22~~ Claim 21, characterized in that some of the auxiliaries or additives are admixed with the starting materials or material mixtures prior to the compacting, grinding or sieving operations.

25. (currently amended) The method for the production of the granules according to ~~Claims 21 to 24~~ Claim 21, characterized in that water is added to the starting materials or material mixtures prior to the compacting, grinding or sieving operations.

26. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 21 to 25~~ Claim 21, characterized in that the granules are stirred with water to form a stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound having a viscosity ranging from 300 to 20,000 mPas, preferably from 800 to 7000 mPas.

27. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 26~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the granules are stirred with water and optionally with conventional auxiliaries and/or additives to form a stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound having a viscosity ranging from 300 to 80,000 mPas, preferably from 1000 to 25,000 mPas.

28. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 20~~ Claim 1, characterized in

that the granules are stirred with water and optionally with colored fibers and/or metallic fibers and/or metallic particles and/or mother-of-pearl and/or inorganic and/or organic dyed particles in order to achieve certain visual effects so as to form a stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound having a viscosity ranging from 300 to 90,000 mPas, preferably from 1100 to 30,000 mPas.

29. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 28~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound contains 5% to 40% by weight, preferably 10% to 30% by weight of granules, 0% to 60% by weight, preferably 25% to 50% by weight of water and 0% to 95% by weight, preferably 20% to 65% by weight of auxiliaries and/or additives.

30. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 29~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound is applied onto the wall and/or ceiling surface to be coated with a spraying device in a generally known manner, whereby the desired surface structure can be set by the granularity of the granules.

31. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 30~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound is applied onto

the wall and/or ceiling surface to be coated with familiar techniques using, for instance, a trowel or spatula.

32. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 26 to 31~~ Claim 26, characterized in that the stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound retains its stable consistency even after a prolonged pot life, and can be used even after a prolonged period of time.

33. (currently amended) The method for the further processing of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 20~~ Claim 1, characterized in that a dry mixture is prepared that contains 5% to 100% by weight, preferably 20% to 90% by weight of granules and 0% to 95% by weight, preferably 10% to 80% by weight of auxiliaries and/or additives.

34. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 33, characterized in that the dry mixture is stirred with water to form a stiff, semi-fluid, pasty coating compound and~~, according to Claims 30 to 31~~ is then applied onto the wall and/or ceiling surface to be coated.

35. (currently amended) The use of the granules according to ~~Claims 1 to 20~~ Claim 1 or further processed ~~according to Claims 26 to 34~~ for the decorative coating, finishing or structuring of interior and/or exterior surfaces.

This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of PCT/EP2003/010910 to the international application and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.

By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752
Attorney for Applicant

29 March 2005
5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: (718) 884-6600
Fax: (718) 601-1099

rg